

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14220

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ARRESTS IN WAKE OF SID DOSSIER

REF: ROME 13693

1. SUMMARY. WAVE OF ARREST WARRANTS AND NOTIFICATIONS OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION HAVE FOLLOWED CONSIGNMENT OF SID DISSIER (REFTEL) TO MAGISTRACY. MOST PROMINENT FIGURE INVOLVED IS FORMER SID CHIEF MICELI, INDICTED FOR WITHHOLDING EVIDENCE. CURRENT ARRESTS AND INDICTMENTS ARE PART OF INTENSIFIED ANTI-FASCIST CAMPAIGN PROBABLY BASED BOTH ON ACTUAL FAR RIGHT SUBVERSIVE ACTIES AND INFIGHTING WITHIN THE DC AND CENTER-LEFT COALITION PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN WAKE OF DELIVERY OF SID (NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE) DOSSIER ON RIGHT WING PLOTS TO JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES, ROME PROSECUTORS OCTOBER 11 ISSUED 20 ARREST WARRANTS AND 53 NOTIFICATIONS OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION. EIGHT PERSONS ARRESTED AND 12 BEING SOUGHT ARE CHARGED WITH PLOTTING ARMED INSURRECTION. THE CHARGES INVOLVE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES DATING FROM DECEMBER 1970 (BORGHESE PLOT) TO THE PRESENT. THE ROME INVESTIGATION IS LINKED WITH SIMILAR JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST QUOTE BLACK PLOTTERS UNQUOTE IN TURIN AND PADUA WIHICH HAVE ALSO PRODUCED SEVERAL ARRESTS.

3. THE CURRENT ARRESTS AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS ARE FRONT-PAGE NEWS IN ALL PAPERS. THEY INVOLVE SEVERAL PROMINENT PERSONS IN FAR RIGHT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS
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AVANGUARDIA NAZIONALE, QUOTE ROSA DEI VENTI UNQUOTE AND ORDINE

NUOVO (DISSOLVED IN NOVEMBER 1973). AMONG THESE AGAINST WHOM ARREST WARRANTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED ARE RETIRED GENERAL GIUSEPPE CASERO (FORMER AIR FORCE VICE CHIEF OF STAFF), THREE FIELD GRADE OFFICERS IN THE CARABINIERI, POLICE AND FOREST GUARDS AND AN ENGINEER AT EURATOM. THE MOST DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENT HOWEVER, IS THE ISSUANCE OF A NOTIFICATION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION TO FORMER SID CHIEF GENERAL VITO MECELI. MICELI IS ACCUSED OF WITHHOLDING INFORMATION REGARDING AN ALLEGED COUP PLANNED IN DECEMBER 1970 BY PRINCE JUNIO VALERIO BORGHESE. IN STATEMENT PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S PRESS, MICELI HEATEDLY DENIED ANY DERELICTION OF DUTY AND DENOUNCED CHARGES AS PART OF SHADY QUOTE POWER PLAYS UNQUOTE.

4. COMMENT: CURRENT SPATE OF ARRESTS AND INCRIMINATION OF TOP OFFICIAL LIKE MICELI LENDS MOMENTUM TO ONGOING ANTI-FASCIST CAMPAIGN. SID DOSSIER MAY, INDEED, HAVE PROVIDED MAGISTRATES WITH IMPORTANT NEW EVIDENCE OF SERIOUS RIGHT-WING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY. HOWEVER, MICELI NO DOUBT HAS A POINT WHEN HE CLAIMS THAT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS (REFTEL) ARE PLAYING AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE WAVE OF QUOTE BLACK PLOT UNQUOTE REVELATIONS MUCH APPLAUDED BY THE LEFT. VOLPE

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